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The certification of Electoral College votes for the state of Arizona is unsealed during a joint session of the House and Senate convenes to confirm the electoral votes cast in November's election, at the Capitol, Jan 6, 2021.

Associated Press

**Gino and Felipe, the story about the value of animals for the wellbeing of people in the margins of society**



Page 11

**"Because we know the guests for such a long time, we have a special connection with each other"**

## Bills would curtail objections at future Jan. 6 vote counts

By MARY CLARE JALONICK  
WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of Congress have officially objected to the results in four of the last six presidential elections, a partisan practice that has been legal for over a cen-

tury but became much more fraught after a violent mob of then-President Donald Trump's supporters attacked the U.S. Capitol last year. In an effort to prevent another Jan. 6, 2021, bills mov-

ing through the House and the Senate would make it harder to lodge those objections when Congress counts the electoral votes in a joint session after every presidential election.

Continued on page 3



Page 7

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# White House: New rule will show 'true cost' of plane tickets

By SEUNG MIN KIM and DAVID KOENIG Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Joe Biden will announce a new initiative Monday that would eventually allow consumers to see a more complete price on airline tickets — including baggage and change fees — before they buy, as the White House continues to search for ways to lower costs for Americans amid persistently high inflation.

The White House says the proposed rule from the Transportation Department will prevent airlines from hiding the "true cost" of airline tickets, which would help consumers save money up front and encourage more competition among airlines to offer better fares.



Southwest Airlines planes taxi at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix, July 17, 2019. Associated Press

The requirement will apply not only to airlines directly but also to third-party search sites such as Kayak and Expedia. Airlines made nearly \$5.3 billion in baggage fees and nearly \$700 million on

cancellation and change fees last year, according to Transportation Department figures. Airlines charge a variety of other fees for extra legroom and other perks that are not tracked by the government.

A trade group for the largest U.S. airlines said carriers already disclose terms and the total cost of a ticket. "This includes transparency regarding taxes and government fees on airline tickets, which account for more than 20% of many domestic one-stop, roundtrip tickets," said Katherine Estep, a spokeswoman for Airlines for America.

The proposed rule seeks to target a typical situation faced by consumers where a ticket price is listed on an airline or search website, but with information often listed elsewhere about any additional airline fees, such as for checking or carrying on a bag, getting a guaranteed seat next to your child or changing or canceling a flight — fees that vary widely by airline and could quickly tack on up to hundreds of dollars more to a price of a ticket after the initial purchase. Under the proposal, all that fee information would be made available upfront when the quoted airfare is first displayed.

The fare information would be required for all commercial flights to, within, and from the United States.

The proposal dates back to the Obama administration

and was scrapped in 2017 by then-President Donald Trump after airlines complained that it was unnecessary and would incur significant costs. It must now go through a 60-day comment period before final approval.

The proposed rule comes as tension grows between the Biden administration and the airlines, with each blaming the other for an increase in canceled and delayed flights this summer. The Transportation Department also began posting information to help consumers learn what each airline provides when flights are canceled or delayed for reasons within the airline's control. That prompted several airlines to update policies around finding a new flight and covering hotel and meal expenses for stranded travelers.

Biden was scheduled to make the announcement on Monday afternoon at a meeting of the White House Competition Council, established last year as a way for his administration to find cost-saving measures for consumers. It will be the third meeting of the group, chaired by National Economic Council director Brian Deese.

At the meeting, Biden plans to push other federal agencies to take similar cost-saving actions, particularly by increasing transparency on hidden fees that can balloon the true cost of goods and services.

One example is a proposal from the Federal Communications Commission that would require internet service providers to better outline fees and charges on what the administration calls a "broadband nutrition label." And the Agriculture Department on Monday will also unveil new actions meant to encourage competition in various agricultural markets.

The administration has taken similar actions when it comes to bank and credit card fees, which the White House says have saved consumers \$3 billion annually compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic. □

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**Continued from Front**

The move to curtail the objections is part of a larger effort to overhaul the 1800s-era Electoral Count Act and safeguard the integrity of the vote after Trump tried to persuade his Republican allies in Congress to vote against Democrat Joe Biden's victory and overturn his 2020 defeat. Under current law, only one member of the House and one member of the Senate has to challenge a state's results to trigger votes on that state's electors in each chamber. If a simple majority in each chamber votes to sustain the objection, that state's votes can be thrown out.

The House and Senate bills would each raise that threshold substantially, with the House bill requiring a third of each chamber to object and the Senate bill requiring a fifth of each chamber to object. The House legislation, passed last week, would also lay out new requirements for the grounds for an objection.

"It is just too easy to trigger an objection when it only requires one person in each chamber," says Maine Sen. Susan Collins, a Republican co-sponsor of the Senate version. Eleven GOP senators have signed on to the legislation, which is up for a vote in a Senate committee on Tuesday.

If the bills are consolidated into one measure that becomes law, it will do away with a tradition that has become increasingly popular as Congress has become more polarized.

Democrats have objected the last three times that Republicans were elected — twice against George W. Bush and once against Trump — but in each of those cases the Democratic candidate had already conceded the election.

The stakes were raised considerably in 2021, when Trump and his allies were actively trying to thwart Biden's win, with a strategy to throw out Biden electors in Congress and the support of a violent mob that broke into the Capitol, interrupted the joint session and threatened the lives of lawmakers and Vice Presi-



**Vice President Mike Pence hands the electoral certificate from the state of Arizona to Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., as he presides over a joint session of Congress as it convenes to count the Electoral College votes cast in November's election, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021.**

Associated Press

dent Mike Pence.

House Administration Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren of California, the Democratic sponsor of the House bill with Republican Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, said the bill would protect the voters' will from "frivolous" objections and more sinister efforts.

"If you want to object to the vote, you better have your colleagues and the Constitution on your side," Lofgren said just before the bill passed. "Don't try to overturn our democracy."

At the 2021 joint session, two GOP senators — Ted Cruz of Texas and Josh Hawley of Missouri — joined a larger group of House Republicans in objecting to Biden's electoral votes in Arizona and Pennsylvania, two swing states that Trump had won in the 2016 election but lost in 2020. Both the House and the Senate voted to certify Biden's win in those states in the hours after the rioters had injured police officers, rampaged through the Capitol and sent lawmakers running for their lives. But eight senators and almost 140 members of the House voted to sustain the objections.

Congress had only held such votes twice since the enactment of the Electoral Count Act 135 years ago. In 1969, two Democratic

senators joined a member of the House to object to the vote of one elector in North Carolina during the certification of Republican Richard Nixon's victory. In 2004, Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer of California and Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones, D-Ohio, objected to President George W. Bush's electors in Ohio over what they said were voting irregularities.

In both cases, the House and the Senate rejected the objections.

In several other instances, members of the House have lodged objections without the support of a senator. In 2000, several members of the Congressional Black Caucus objected to Bush's electors in Florida after the Supreme Court had forced a halt to vote-counting in that state and decided the election. Vice President Al Gore, whom Bush had defeated, gavelled the objections down as he presided over the session.

In 2016, several Democrats stood and objected to Trump's win over Democrat Hillary Clinton but no senator joined, and Vice President Joe Biden dismissed them. Like Gore, Clinton had already conceded defeat.

Members on both sides of the Capitol have been working on the revisions

to the Electoral Count Act since the 2021 insurrection, saying the law's vague language was not robust enough protection against Trump's overt attempts to subvert the will of the people. The bills would also clarify that the vice president's role is solely ceremonial and try to prevent states from creating slates of illegitimate electors, as Trump's allies tried to do.

The House bill is more expansive than the Senate bill, and the two sides will eventually have to resolve their differences into a single measure. That includes the House language with new grounds for any objection, which would restrict the process even further. Under the House legislation, no member could make an objection unless it fell under a strict set of parameters that relate to the Constitution — that the state is not validly a state, if the state submits too many electoral votes or if a candidate is not eligible, for example. House Republicans argued against the legislation by saying it was a political attack on Trump, noting the frequent Democratic objections over the years. It only received nine Republican votes, all from members who are not returning to the House next year. Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., re-

sponded that if lawmakers believed there had been too many objections in the past, "you should absolutely be supporting this legislation."

Hawley, who was photographed raising a fist to pro-Trump protesters outside the Capitol ahead of last year's joint session, said in an interview that he is "skeptical" of the effort to change a law that has been in place for so many years.

"My concern is that it's going to look like to Republican voters that Democrats can object as much as often as they want," the Missouri Republican said, noting the objections in 2000, 2004 and 2016.

"As soon as Republicans do, they change the law," Hawley said. "I can promise you, that will be the perception."

Still, 11 Republican senators have signed on to the Senate bill, enough to break a filibuster and pass the bill in the 50-50 Senate.

Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey, who is retiring, was the latest GOP senator to sign on to the legislation last week. "The poor drafting of the 1887 Electoral Count Act endangered the transition of power from one Administration to the next," Toomey said when he announced his support. "Unfortunately, in the over 100 intervening years, individual Democratic and Republican members of Congress have occasionally attempted to exploit the ambiguities in this law to cast doubt on the validity of our elections, culminating in the debacle of January 6, 2021," he said. "It is past time Congress act." □

# ARUBA CLEAN



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# Hiroshima bombing recalled in Oregon "peace trees" campaign

By **ANDREW SELSKY**

**SALEM, Ore. (AP)** — Hideko Tamura Snider was a 10-year-old girl in Hiroshima, Japan, when the United States detonated an atomic bomb over the city on Aug. 6, 1945, during World War II.

On Wednesday, she described the horrors of that day as the guest of honor in a ceremony marking the culmination of a four-year-long campaign in Oregon to plant saplings grown from the seeds of trees that also survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

An Oregon official involved in the campaign told the audience that recognition of the continued threat of nuclear weapons is especially relevant today, with Russian President Vladimir Putin making veiled threats to use them in his war against Ukraine.

"So, four years ago we were thinking that this was us looking back at a past when atomic weapons were something that happened long ago. And today, I think it's much more relevant to us as we sit in this room today," said Jim Gersbach, an Oregon Commu-



**Hideko Tamura Snider, a survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, bows on Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022, in Salem, Ore, before watering a ginkgo tree that came from a seed of a tree that also survived the bombing.**

**Associated Press**

nity Trees board member and spokesman for the state forestry department. In Hiroshima, arborist Chikara Horiguchi started growing saplings from the seeds in 1995. A total of 170 trees in Hiroshima that survived the bomb are reportedly

still living.

"I believe the best way for me to speak about peace is through the A-bombed trees. A-bombed trees are the symbol of destruction and recovery," Horiguchi says in a video for Green Legacy Hiroshima, which

has been sending seeds and saplings of survivor trees to dozens of countries around the world, including Chile, Ireland and Ethiopia. Green Legacy Hiroshima volunteers began collecting the seeds in 2011.

Arborist Mike Oxendine, of

Ashland, Oregon, obtained the seeds from Green Legacy Hiroshima and germinated them. Oregon Community Trees and the forestry department collaborated in finding homes for the trees. Communities all over responded — coastal towns like Seaside, the mountain town of Bend in central Oregon, Hood River along the Columbia River and La Grande in the east. A total of 51 trees were planted around this Pacific Northwest state, the densest concentration of Hiroshima peace trees anywhere outside Japan, Gersbach said. Most are ginkgo trees along with a few persimmons — both known for their hardiness.

Speaking at the ceremony in the Oregon Department of Forestry headquarters, Tamura Snider said the effort and those behind it symbolize "ways to come together in peace, looking with great hope for the future of this world, rather than perishing in the God-awful nuclear explosion." She described the morning of Aug. 6, 1945, hearing an air raid alert and then an all-clear. □

# Chief: Man shot by Chicago police infiltrated SWAT training



**Chicago police respond to a shooting near the CPD Homan Square facility Monday, Sept. 26, 2022.**

**Associated Press**

By **COREY WILLIAMS and DON BABWIN**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — A man climbed five stories of a fire escape to infiltrate a Chicago police facility Monday while officers were undergoing a SWAT training exercise and grabbed at least two guns before he was shot and wounded by

police, the chief said.

Police Superintendent David Brown said the suspect was taken to the hospital with injuries not considered to be life-threatening. One officer was taken to the hospital with a sprained ankle.

Brown said the suspect was seen on video leaving the

facility and then returning to infiltrate it. He asked where to go to retrieve personal property at the facility on in Homan Square on Chicago's West Side. Then he came back to the building and climbed the fire escape to the fifth floor, where a door had been propped open for ventilation.

Brown said it has not been determined if the man went to the building to retrieve property, saying that the man had an extensive record. It wasn't immediately clear if property taken from the man was stored in the building.

He had no other information about the man, other than to say he was a resident of Waukegan, a suburb north of Chicago.

Brown said investigators believe the man grabbed at least two guns that were

on a table during the training exercise and pointed them at officers. He said he did not know if the man attempted to shoot officers with the guns, which didn't have live ammunition in them at the time.

Brown speculated on what officers in the training room saw as the man entered the room.

"These were guns that were being watched," he said.

"Obviously, someone coming from a stairwell outside startled everyone. Who is this person? Is this person associated with the training? We do have live actors sometimes who come in plainclothes."

He also said that it was likely the officers said something to the man when they spotted him, but that, "We just don't know what the offender said."

The officer was taken to

Mount Sinai Hospital in stable condition with the ankle injury, according to the Chicago Fire Department. He was not shot, Brown said. The suspect was initially described as being in critical condition with at least one gunshot wound. Later in the day, Brown said the man's injuries were not life-threatening.

The police facility is in a large red brick building that houses evidence and recovered property on the first floor. Some of the police department's specialized units also work out of the building.

Early Monday afternoon, crime scene tape was stretched across South Homan Avenue a block south of the police station and across the same street just north of the building.

A nearby school was placed on lockdown. □



# Russia gives citizenship to ex-NSA contractor Edward Snowden

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Russian President Vladimir Putin has granted Russian citizenship to former U.S. security contractor Edward Snowden, according to a decree signed Monday by the Russian leader.

Snowden is one of 75 foreign citizens listed by the decree as being granted Russian citizenship. The decree was published on an official government website.

Snowden, a former contractor with the U.S. National Security Agency, has been living in Russia since 2013 to escape prosecution in the U.S. after leaking classified documents detailing government surveillance programs.

He was granted permanent Russian residency in 2020 and said at the time that he planned to apply for Russian citizenship without renouncing his U.S. citizenship.

Snowden's lawyer, Anatoly Kucherena, told Russia's state news agency RIA Novosti that the former contractor's wife Lindsay Mills, an American who has been living with him in Russia, will also be applying for a Russian passport. The couple had a child in December 2020.

Snowden, who has kept a



**In this image made from video and released by WikiLeaks, former National Security Agency systems analyst Edward Snowden speaks in Moscow, Oct. 11, 2013.**

Associated Press

low profile in Russia and occasionally criticized Russian government policies on social media, said in 2019 that he was willing to return to the U.S. if he's guaranteed a fair trial.

He hasn't commented on being granted Russian citizenship.

The move comes as Moscow is mobilizing reservists for what the Kremlin calls a "special military operation" in Ukraine. In Russia, almost every man is considered a reservist until age 65, and officials on Monday

stressed that men with dual citizenship are also eligible for the military call-up.

Snowden, however, has never served in the Russian armed forces, so he is not eligible to be mobilized, his lawyer Kucherena told the Interfax news agency. Having previous combat or military service experience has been considered the main criteria in the call-up.

Snowden leaked documents on the NSA's collection of huge amounts of data passing through U.S. internet companies.

He also released details about the classified U.S. intelligence budget and the extent of American surveillance on foreign officials, including the leaders of U.S.-allied countries.

Snowden has said he made the disclosures because he believed the U.S. intelligence community had gone too far and wrongly infringed on civil liberties. He also has said he didn't believe the administration of former President Barack Obama, which was in office when he leaked the records to journalists, would act had he made an internal whistleblower complaint instead.

Snowden's decision to turn against the NSA came when he used his programming skills to create a repository of classified in-house notes on the agency's global snooping and as he built a backup system for agency data, he wrote in his 2019 book "Permanent Record." Reading through the repository, Snowden said he began to understand the extent of his government's stomping on civil liberties and became sullen, "cursed with the knowledge that all of us had been reduced to something like children, who'd been forced to live

the rest of their lives under omniscient parental supervision."

He has since become a well-known speaker on privacy and intelligence, appearing remotely at many events from Russia.

But he also remains controversial among members of the intelligence community, and current and former officials from both U.S. political parties say he endangered global security by exposing important programs.

Snowden was charged in 2013 with unauthorized disclosure of U.S. national security and intelligence information as well as theft of government property. The Justice Department also sued to stop Snowden from collecting profits on his memoir, saying he had violated his nondisclosure agreements with intelligence agencies.

The White House on Monday referred comment on Snowden's citizenship to the Justice Department, citing the pending criminal charges.

Snowden's acceptance of Russian citizenship is likely to drive more criticism against him from people who say he has remained silent on issues such as the conflict in Ukraine. □

## Denmark reports leak in gas pipeline in Baltic Sea

**BERLIN (AP)** — Denmark's maritime authority said Monday that a gas leak had been observed in a pipeline leading from Russia to Europe underneath the Baltic Sea and that there is a danger to ship traffic.

The operator of Nord Stream 2 confirmed that a leak in the pipeline had been detected southeast of the Danish island Bornholm in the Baltic Sea.

The pipeline runs 1,230 kilometers (764 miles) from Russia through the Baltic Sea to Germany. It is completed and filled with gas, but gas has never been imported through it, dpa reported.

The cause of the detected

leak wasn't immediately clear. The Danish energy agency said in a statement that the country's maritime authority has issued a navigation warning and established a five-nautical mile prohibition zone around the pipeline "as it is dangerous for ship traffic."

The relevant authorities are currently coordinating the effort, and the Danish energy agency added that "outside the exclusion zone, there are no security risks associated with the leak."

The incident is not expected to have consequences for the security of the supply of Danish gas, the country's energy agency said.

A spokesman for the operator of Nord Stream 2 said a loss of pressure was detected in a tube early Monday, and the responsible marine authorities in Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Russia were immediately informed, dpa reported.

While the pressure inside the pipeline is normally 105 bar, it is now only 7 bar on the German side, spokesman Ulrich Lissek said. He fears that the pipeline, filled with 177 million cubic meters of gas, could run dry in the coming days, dpa reported.

It wasn't immediately clear what consequences would follow from that, but a Ger-



**A ship works offshore in the Baltic Sea on the natural gas pipeline Nord Stream 2 from Russia to Germany, on Nov. 11, 2018.**

Associated Press

man environmental group said that the leaking gas isn't toxic.

Deutsche Umwelthilfe pointed out that natural gas is methane, which partially dissolves in water and is not toxic. The deeper the gas is released in the sea, the higher the proportion that dissolves in the water, the group said, according

to dpa.

Even in the event of an underwater explosion, there would only be local effects, Deutsche Umwelthilfe said. The German economy ministry said it had been informed about the suspected site in Danish territorial waters and was in touch with the authorities in Germany and Denmark. □



# Cargo traffic movement resumes between Colombia, Venezuela

**Associated Press**

**BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)**

— Trucks loaded with aluminum and medications crossed a bridge linking Colombia and Venezuela for the first time in seven years Monday following restoration of diplomatic relations, giving regional businesses hope for growing trade.

Colombia's new leftist President Gustavo Petro, who took office in August and quickly moved to reestablish ties with Venezuela's government, was on hand as the trucks rolled across the Simon Bolivar International Bridge between Cucuta, Colombia, and San Antonio, Venezuela. It was once one of the busiest crossings between the two South American nations.

Residents of border areas and business owners in both countries expect the resumption of cargo traffic to generate jobs and reduce the thriving illegal commerce.

"Hopefully, we can reactivate the 1,200 direct jobs that were lost," said Sandra Guzmán Lizarazo, president of the Colombian Federation of Logistics Agents in International Trade, which had to close all but one of its 15 customs warehouses in the Colombian border city of Cúcuta when commercial traffic was blocked. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in 2015 ordered



Colombia's President Gustavo Petro, left, and Venezuela's Transportation Minister Ramon Araguayan shake hands on the Simon Bolivar International Bridge during a ceremony to mark its reopening, between Cucuta, Colombia and San Antonio del Tachira, Venezuela, Monday, Sept. 26, 2022.

**Associated Press**

border crossings closed during what he described as a crackdown on smuggling. Foot traffic eventually resumed, and some very limited cargo continued to move through the northernmost bridge.

Relations were already strained between Maduro's socialist government and U.S.-allied Colombia. They were strained further after Maduro's 2018 reelection, which Colombia, the U.S. and many other nations considered illegitimate. Diplomatic relations

were severed the following year.

Trade between the two countries reached \$2.4 billion in 2014 but fell to about \$406 million last year most of it Venezuelan imports from Colombia according to the Chamber of Venezuelan-Colombian Economic Integration. The group, based in Venezuela, estimates this year's activity could exceed \$1 billion if the crossings reopen to vehicular traffic.

The Venezuelan government has estimated that

the commercial exchange within a year of a fully reopened border could exceed \$4 billion.

The first truck to cross the bridge entered Colombia carrying aluminum rolls from Venezuela. The next truck moved in the opposite direction, hauling medicines. Each was decorated with flags and honked as it entered the neighboring country.

Petro said the trucks' movement is a "symbol of unity" and indicated that the border should never have

been closed.

"Globalization, above all else, is trade and unity between neighbors," he told reporters after the event. "Anyone who measures the flows of international trade, cultural flows, population flows, will always find that the greatest amount is between neighbors and that is how it was before sectarian madness took over hearts and brains. So, it was between Colombia and Venezuela."

Venezuela Transportation Minister Ramon Velásquez repeatedly shook Petro's hand as they stood with a group of officials, including the ambassadors of both countries, at the bridge's midpoint.

Maduro did not attend the ceremony at the bridge. He has curtailed his public appearances in relatively uncontrolled spaces since 2018, when two drones detonated explosives near him during a military parade in Caracas, Venezuela's capital.

Colombia and Venezuela share a border of about 1,370 miles (2,200 kilometers). Bandits, drug traffickers, paramilitary groups and guerrillas take advantage of the remote and desolate landscape to operate, though that did not deter legal trade before Maduro ordered the closure of official border crossings. □

## Suspect detained in Poland in Dutch reporter's slaying

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands**

**(AP)** — Dutch prosecutors said Monday that a 30-year-old man suspected of involvement in the slaying of crime reporter Peter R. de Vries has been arrested by authorities in Poland.

De Vries, one of the Netherlands' best-known journalists who also campaigned to solve cold cases, was gunned down in Amsterdam on July 6 last year. He died nine days later of his injuries at age 64.

Prosecutors said the Polish man was arrested on suspicion of helping prepare the attack and that he is believed to have lived in

the Dutch port city of Rotterdam at the time of the

shooting.

His identity wasn't released



Dutch crime reporter Peter R. de Vries looks on, prior to attending a live TV show in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Thursday Jan. 31, 2008.

**Associated Press**

in line with privacy regulations. Dutch authorities have requested his transfer to the Netherlands.

Two men were arrested near The Hague soon after De Vries were shot and are on trial for his murder. Prosecutors have sought life sentences for both. One of them is a Polish national, Kamil E., who is the alleged getaway driver.

Another Polish national was arrested in July on suspicion of instructing the two men who carried out the hit. Two other suspects were arrested in Spain and Curacao on the same day. Before his shooting, De Vries acted as an adviser

and confidant for a witness in the trial of the alleged leader and other members of a crime gang that police described as an "oiled killing machine."

The witness' brother and his lawyer both were murdered. The suspected gangland leader, Ridouan Taghi, was extradited to the Netherlands from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in 2019 and is currently awaiting verdicts in his trial.

Prosecutors have sought a life sentence for his alleged involvement in a string of murders. He hasn't been charged in De Vries' killing. □



## Mario Tromp, Senior Agent at Playa Linda:

# “Because we know the guests for such a long time, we have a special connection with each other”

Today we are celebrating World Tourism Day and to mark the occasion, we want to highlight one of the stars working tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure you experience the very best of our One Happy Island. Meet Mario Tromp, a Front Desk Senior at Playa Linda.

“I’ve been a Front Desk Senior for quite a while. I made my way around the hotel, I started out working as a towel hut agent, worked my way through housekeeping, in the office, I worked in the maintenance floors. I had an opportunity at the Front Desk and I took it!” Mario told us. “I worked at the Front Desk for a while, then I got a promotion and became a Front Desk Senior.”

Mario is absolutely a people person, which makes him the perfect person to greet guests at Playa Linda. “I love working with people. I adore it, I really feel like it’s my calling”, he says. “I love talking to my guests, I’ve been here forever. My guests feel like part of my family. It’s just a connection.”

The Playa Linda slogan, “Your Home Away From Home”, was truly alive when we visited to meet Mario. Guests who come year after year become close to the hotel staff, and Mario is living proof of the strong bonds that are formed. “It truly feels like your home away from home”, he says. “As we are a time-share, the guests keep coming every year, and because we know each other for



such a long time, we have a special connection with each other.”

Front Desk is famously a very unpredictable position, requiring quick thinking on your feet, and an ability to find creative solutions. Working in the Front Desk, Mario can recall some interesting stories. “One that really stands out to me was when there was a guest at the desk who had a wedding. On his wedding day he was missing a belt. He was going crazy looking for a belt, and I asked him, what size are you? I took off my belt and it fit him perfectly! It matched the suit! And he went out for his wedding, was wedded, and he came back and gave me a million thanks!” Talk about being at the right place at the right time!

Often times, the staff at the Front Desk is the primary point of information for the guests, and when things go wrong, they are the ones who have to keep things together. “From time to time we do have challenges. One that really stands out is, a few years ago, the boilers blew out [at the electricity plant] and the whole island shut off. It felt like The Purge on the island. The guests were a bit anxious. It was really... not a challenge, but we had to keep them calm and peaceful while it was happening.”

Mario loves working at

Playa Linda. What he loves most? “Honestly everything. It feels like my family. I come in, I greet everybody. My guests, as soon as they see me they get very excited and I get just as excited as them. It’s a great connection.”

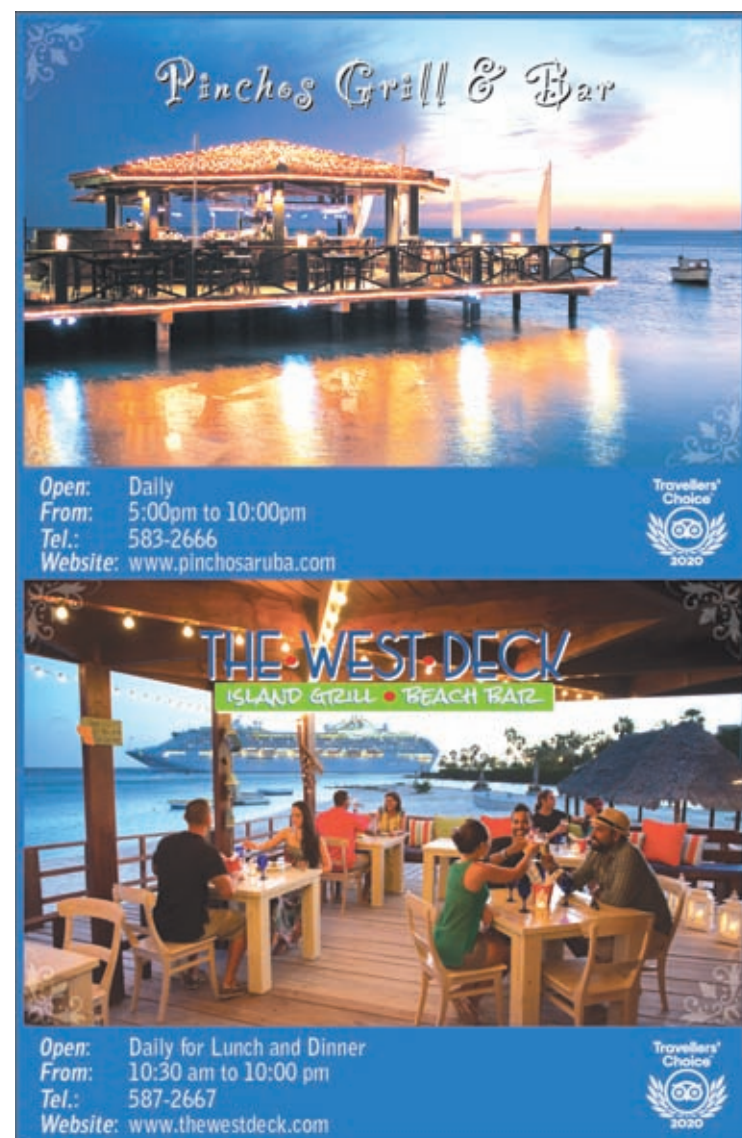
To be successful at the Front Desk at Playa Linda, it is imperative to have “a wonderful personality, great energy and smiles. Smiles are contagious, and just keep a positive energy

throughout the day.”

As for what the guests expect when they walk through the door and Mario is the first person they meet?

“Sunshine!” And Mario is exactly that: sunshine personified.

To watch a video of our interview with Mario Tromp, please visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/arubatoday>.





## Honoring of loyal visitors at Costa Linda Beach Resort Aruba



**EAGLE BEACH** - Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as following: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor", 20+ years "Goodwill Ambassador" and 36+ years "Emerald Ambassador".

The honorees were Dave and Lise Henkensiefken residente di Pennsylvania, United States who were honored as Distinguished

Ambassadors as well as Dionisio E. Rosa and Yolanda A. Rojas, residents of Buenos Aires, Argentina who were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors.

This symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between the 10-20-35 and more consecutive year mark.

The reasons our loyal visitors provided for returning to the Island were the beautiful beach and crystal clear water, the people and their friendliness, the services,

the relaxing atmosphere, the environment, the delicious food and Costa Linda being their home away from home.

Ms. Olga Ruiz representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of the Costa Linda Beach Resort Aruba bestowed the certification of the Ambassadors and presented the Ambassadors with gifts, and thanked them on behalf of the Government of Aruba for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination for so many years. The Honorees can now call Aruba their home away from home. □





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## ImSan celebrates milestone with Ring the Bell Ceremony

Oranjestad - On Thursday, September 22, 2022, the Medical Institute San Nicolas ImSan reached a milestone in their radiotherapy department, where the 500th patient successfully underwent his last treatment.

On April 2, 2020, the Radiotherapy Department of the ImSan treated the first patient, and just a few months later, on November 11, 2020, they treated the 100th patient.

The master plan for the expansion of the ImSan officially started in April 2018 with an investment of 60 million florins. The master plan

included the radiotherapy department with its CT scanner and an eye care outpatient clinic where they perform vitrectomies. In addition, they have built operating rooms with advanced equipment and acquired their anesthetist to assist with operations performed at the ImSan.

The master plan also included a sterilization department for the medical equipment and the conversion of the ImSan into a short-stay facility with 22 rooms and a new Emergency Center or the treatment of adults and children. With the new radiotherapy department, patients no longer have to



go abroad for this type of treatment, which reduces the costs of AZV. The AZV has earmarked 1 million florins for the ImSan to make the rooms operational for overnight stays.

Minister Prime Minister Evelyn Wev-

er- Croes and Minister of Health Dangui Oduber, on behalf of the government, expressed their sincere gratitude to Dr. Joel Rajnherc and the entire team at the ImSan Aruba and their partners, Miami Cancer Institute and Baptist Health. □

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## Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

**SAN NICOLAS**— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

### Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community



Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another.

### The Museum of Industry

The museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940

and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barber-shop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment.

### The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk



around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

### Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can

be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □

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For Directions





# Gino and Felipe, the story about the value of animals for the wellbeing of people in the margins of society

**Felipe has a hard job. But in the same breath, Felipe is much loved and has every freedom, with his food arriving on time and all the attention he needs. Felipe is one of the rescue donkeys at Eliezer Foundation and he helps rescue people going through difficult challenges in life. But aside from everything else, Felipe is an animal, and that on itself is very special for Gino Frans (54), founder and director of the foundation.**

Even though Eliezer Foundation (Zorgboerderij La Posada) has the goal of helping people struggling with addiction, it is the realization of Gino's dream, who for as long as he can remember, he always liked animals. "There are times I like animals more than people."

Felipe is not alone. He is in the farm together with Bella, Skippy and Linda. Most of them came to the farm abused, badly cared for. "Felipe is three years old. I don't know if he's going to grown anymore. I think this has to do with inbreeding in Aruba. I found the mother to take care of, and she gave birth here. Linda was also born here." But for one

reason or another, this little donkey is like a king, moving how and where he wants.

Gino used to collect animals as a kid. It wasn't strange for him to be scolded because, there, Gino brings a duck home. The family lived in the Netherlands for a while and nothing changed. Even though Gino Frans did not become a veterinarian or studied in the area of animal husbandry, he educated himself thanks to the internet in order to take care of them in the best way possible. And now he applies that knowledge, combined with his experience to give animals that are abused, like horses, donkeys and dogs, so that they can find shelter.

What made it possible for Gino to establish a shelter was a philanthropist who allowed them to use a big plot of land. However, this gentleman passed away and Frans had to find another plot of land. Soon he is moving to Santa Lucia, which allows Gino to let the animals roam free. "Here we are close to a main road. Felipe wanders around and sometimes he



goes outside. A car could hit him", he said.

The child who loved and collected animals, today continues with animal care, but also care of people. Eliezer takes care of people suffering from addiction, and the animals and plants in the farm help with the work. "We are a recovery farm. We plant and care for animals. What we try to do is let the clients appreciate the care of animals and learn agriculture." Every client, every addict who arrives at Eliezer gets an animal to take care of, which means that the person learns to work, gets discipline and learns to love animals.

Gino tells each person the story of the animal that they received in their care, so that they can appreciate them. For example, the horses at the farm are not for tours, they are for the people who need guidance to learn what the animals need. From food, baths, cleaning – which includes cleaning the stables. It's a daily work with its routine, necessary for the animals to survive. And when a person who never received love at home realizes how much the animal depends on them, how the animal responds to their care, the personal transformation is enormous.

Currently, there are five horses that one volunteer, Mrs. Wever rescued, and the clients of Eliezer take care of them. "The horses were abused, so they cannot do long tours like before. What they do is give lessons to children. The money generated from this activity goes back into the care of the animals."

An animal gives a lot of love. "You can benefit from an animal. If you teach a child to take care of an animal, he learns to love. In this program, we see change in people that for example did not care for their own child. But here they need to give constant attention to the animal under their care for it to survive. And animals are grateful. They respond."

A horse becomes happy when it receives attention, and the emotion that the clients experience can help them later with their own people. "There was one client who complained why we must go and cut grass every day. He complained why he needs to do this work if he's in Eliezer for his addiction and not to cut grass." The conversation that Gino had with this person was about the client's children, of whom they did not take care. The children are now on the street, on their own. "I told him it's the same with

the animals. If you don't give love and food, one day they will break out and leave. Sometimes it's hard to explain something so emotional to a person, but it becomes more understandable and acceptable if they live it themselves."

What makes Gino very happy is seeing how the therapy with animals works. Something that stood out the most was the story of an adult with autism, who because of lack of understanding found himself on the streets using drugs. Eliezer Foundation opened their doors to this person, and Gino assigned a horse to their care. After a few months caring for the horse, suddenly the client began speaking. This surprised the family, but not Gino. "A horse, an animal has a way of communicating that people don't have", Gino said very happily. And he knows what he is talking about, because Gino himself was once an addict, almost thirty years ago. But for many years already, his wife and his animals like Felipe give him the necessary energy to work with those whom society has rejected.

If you want to watch our video about Eliezer Foundation, visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2621538684739472> or scan the QR code.





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

## ACROSS

- 1 Home of the Buccaneers
- 6 Fancy dos
- 11 Shark's home
- 12 Sports spot
- 13 1994 Disney film
- 15 Ready to go
- 16 Coffee, in slang
- 17 Notice
- 18 In the cards
- 20 Pesto herb
- 23 Jazz bits
- 27 High point
- 28 Singer Billy
- 29 More original
- 31 Drunken
- 32 Common dice roll
- 34 Tack on
- 37 Day in Tijuana
- 38 Turn bad
- 41 2003 Disney film
- 44 Carved gem
- 45 "Tiny Bubbles" singer
- 46 Work byproduct
- 47 Oil can part

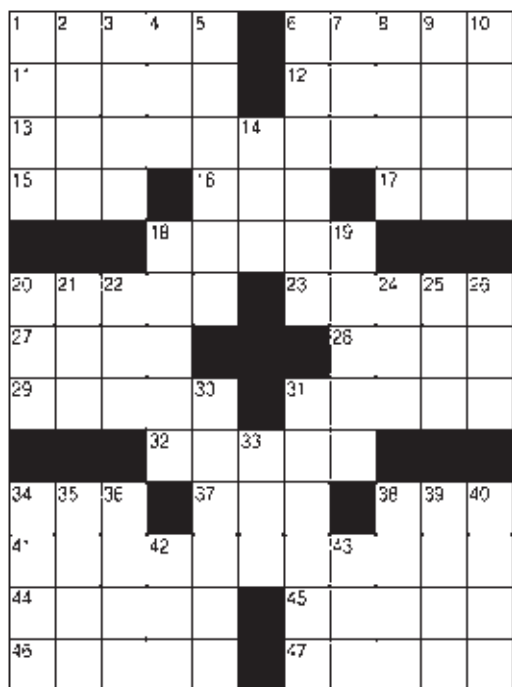
## DOWN

- 1 Young ones
- 2 Massage target
- 3 Come together
- 4 Buddy
- 5 Zoo resident
- 6 Goose's mate
- 7 Noah's boat
- 8 Floral rings
- 9 Writer Rice
- 10 Cooking mint
- 14 Unconscious
- 18 Repairs
- 19 Mustard city of France



Yesterday's answer

- 20 Prohibit
- 21 King Kong, for one
- 22 Put in stitches
- 24 Egg — yong
- 25 Turkish topper
- 26 Cunning
- 30 Very popular
- 31 Chin covers
- 33 Compete
- 34 Rudiments
- 35 Poker variety
- 36 Rotunda topper
- 38 Nevada city
- 39 Honolulu's island
- 40 Easy run
- 42 Pot fill
- 43 Jazz style



9-27

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-27

## CRYPTOQUOTE

Y K ' C M A K K I J R A K Y M I I

K I W K ' C U J S A L Z W L E : Y K ' C K I J

L A V M K Y M H . — K A S

C K A G G W Z U

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IN EVERY CONCEIVABLE MANNER, THE FAMILY IS LINK TO OUR PAST, BRIDGE TO OUR FUTURE. — ALEX HALEY

# How to cultivate a happier retirement

By LIZ WESTON of NerdWallet

Researchers have identified several factors besides money that contribute to a happier retirement, including good health, strong relationships and a sense of purpose.

But setbacks are inevitable, in life and in retirement. Not everyone enjoys good health and no one enjoys it forever. Loved ones die or move away. The pursuits you thought would give your life meaning may not, or may not be possible: Think of all the activities and plans canceled because of the pandemic.

Yet many retirees continue to be happy despite difficulties, and research indicates that their psychological attitudes help determine how well they cope with change.

"Mindset is key, and it's one of those things that's within our control," says executive and retirement coach Joe Casey, author of "Win the Retirement Game: How to Outsmart the 9 Forces Trying to Steal Your Joy."

## CULTIVATE OPTIMISM

A 2014 study by two Kansas State University researchers found that people who are more optimistic tend to be more satisfied in retirement. Study participants' levels of optimism were measured by their agreement with statements including "In uncertain times, I usually expect the best" and "Overall I expect more good things to happen to me than bad."

Positive emotions such as optimism help people to be more resilient and to think more creatively, while pessimism can make it harder to take productive action or cope with difficult situations, says the study's lead researcher Sarah Asebedo, now a professor at Texas Tech University's School of Financial Planning.

But don't despair, pessimists: You can learn to be more optimistic.

"I do think certain people might have a disposition toward optimism or pessimism, but that doesn't mean you can't change your outlook and change



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.

Associated Press

your way of viewing a situation," says Asebedo, who also edits the Journal of Financial Therapy.

Asebedo recommends psychologist Martin E.P. Seligman's book, "Learned Optimism: How to Change Your Mind and Your Life," which explains cognitive behavioral techniques to combat pessimism. If you need further or ongoing help, consider talking with a therapist about developing a more optimistic outlook.

"It's not the Pollyannaish view," Casey explains. "It's really more the 'OK, let's look for the good.'"

## CULTIVATE A POSITIVE VIEW OF AGING

While positive thinking in general can help you cope with life, positive thinking about aging may actually extend your life.

A 2002 study led by Yale University professor Becca R. Levy found that people who had more positive views of aging lived a median of 7.5 years longer than those with more negative attitudes.

The gap persisted even after the researchers took into account other factors that affect longevity, such as age, gender, socioeconomic status, health and loneliness.

Researchers examined how study participants' views of aging predicted their survival up to 23 years later. The 338 men and 322 women ages 50 and older had responded to several

statements about aging, including "As you get older, you are less useful" and "I am as happy now as I was when I was younger."

Positive views of aging had a greater impact on life span than many health factors. For example, low blood pressure or low cholesterol each contribute about four years of longevity. Other healthy behaviors, including refraining from smoking, maintaining a healthy weight and getting regular exercise, add one to three years to life spans.

Levy's research also has found that positive views of aging can protect against dementia and help people recover from health setbacks. People can change their views by becoming more aware of, and challenging, negative stereotypes of aging, Levy writes in her book "Breaking the Age Code: How Your Beliefs About Aging Determine How Long and Well You Live." She also recommends making intergenerational friendships to combat ageism and looking for positive role models.

## CULTIVATE A GROWTH MINDSET

Casey says people can struggle in retirement if they believe that they have stopped evolving and that their days of learning new things are behind them. He coaches his clients to develop a "growth mindset" that embraces learning and change. □



# Apple Inc will manufacture iPhone 14 in India



New iPhone 14 models on display at an Apple event on the campus of Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, Calif., Sept. 7, 2022.

Associated Press

By KRUTIKA PATHI

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — Apple Inc. will make its iPhone 14 in India, the company said on Monday, as manufacturers shift production from China amid geopolitical tensions and pandemic restrictions that have disrupted supply chains for many industries.

"The new iPhone 14 lineup introduces groundbreaking new technologies and important safety capabilities. We're excited to be manufacturing iPhone 14 in India," Apple said in a statement.

Apple unveiled its latest line-up of iPhones earlier this month. They will have improved cameras, faster processors and longer lasting batteries at the same prices as last year's models. India is the world's second-largest smartphone market after China but Apple iPhone sales have struggled to capture a large

share of the market against cheaper smartphones from competitors.

The announcement from the Cupertino, California-based company dovetails with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's push for local manufacturing, which has been a key goal for his government ever since he took office in 2014.

The tech company has bet big on India, where it first began manufacturing its iPhone SE in 2017 and has since continued to assemble a number of iPhone models there. Apple opened its online store for India two years ago, but the pandemic has delayed plans for a flagship store in India, according to local media reports.

The latest model will be shipped out by Foxconn, a major iPhone assembler, whose facilities are on the outskirts of Chennai, a city in southern India.

Apple is likely to shift about 5% of its iPhone 14 production to India from later this year, raising it to 25% by 2025, according to a JP Morgan report quoted by the Press Trust of India news agency.

The analysts expect that nearly a quarter of all Apple products to be manufactured outside China by 2025, compared to about 5% now. Supply chain risks like the stringent COVID-19 lockdowns seen in China are likely the trigger for such relocation efforts that will continue over the next two or three years, the report said.

"Apple has been trying to diversify its supply chain for a while, but these efforts have grown in the last two years over trade sanctions between the U.S. and China," said Sanyam Chaurasia, an analyst at Canalys. Last year, the tech giant manufactured around 7 million iPhones in India. This news is likely to significantly increase India-made Apple

smartphones, he added. He said the plan to make more iPhones in India may also lead Apple to drop its prices for the Indian market, making it more competitive. "You can adopt

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# Ohtani vs. Judge the latest of baseball's great MVP races

By **NOAH TRISTER**  
AP Baseball Writer

When Shohei Ohtani is pitching impressively and hitting over 30 homers, he might always be the MVP favorite unless another player in his league comes up with something awfully special.

Like hitting 60 home runs, for example.

Ohtani vs. Aaron Judge for the American League MVP figures to be the most hotly debated postseason award this year. Judge is closing in on Roger Maris' AL record of 61 homers and might also win the Triple Crown.

He's done it while playing quite a bit of center field for a team that's nearing a division title.

Ohtani, on the other hand, is pitching better than he did when he was the unanimous MVP last year. He may even be putting himself in the Cy Young conversation, to go along with his 34 homers.

According to Baseball-Reference's wins above replacement stat, the two are pretty close. Judge was at 9.9 entering Sunday, with Ohtani at 9.0.

As phenomenal as he is,



Los Angeles Angels Shohei Ohtani flies out during the first inning of the team's baseball game against the Minnesota Twins on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

there are a couple factors — both last year and this year — that keep Ohtani's WAR a bit below the Barry Bonds/Babe Ruth stratosphere. As well as he's pitched, the Angels are careful about not overusing him. He threw only 130 1/3 innings last year and has 153 this year. His lack of defensive value also works against him.

That's just nitpicking, of course. If Ohtani doesn't

win MVP this time, it will have taken a truly spectacular performance to beat him.

Here are a few other famous head-to-head MVP races through the years:

**1941 (AL):** Joe DiMaggio over Ted Williams. Perhaps the most famous MVP race came in the year DiMaggio had his 56-game hitting streak and Williams hit .406.

**1961 (AL):** Maris over Mickey Mantle. This was a close

race even though Maris — who beat out Mantle for the 1960 MVP as well — hit his 61 home runs to break Ruth's record. Mantle played a tougher position and, while this obviously wasn't a factor back then, he had a significant 10.4-6.9 edge on Maris in WAR.

**1987 (AL):** George Bell over Alan Trammell. Trammell's Tigers rallied past Bell's Blue Jays for the AL East title, but the Detroit shortstop

couldn't overcome the Toronto slugger's 47 home runs and 134 RBIs.

**1998 (NL):** Sammy Sosa over Mark McGwire. McGwire (70) outlasted Sosa (66) in the home run race after both broke Maris' record, but the MVP vote was lopsided in Sosa's favor. His Cubs made the playoffs, and he led the league in runs and RBIs.

**2012 (AL):** Miguel Cabrera over Mike Trout. In a contentious race pitting traditionalists against new-age stats, the Triple Crown-winning Cabrera took the MVP — and the vote wasn't all that close. Trout settled for second place despite producing 10.5 WAR as a rookie. After finishing second to Cabrera again the following year, Trout won three MVPs of his own.

## TRIVIA TIME

This past weekend, Houston's Dusty Baker became the fourth manager with a 100-win season in both leagues. Who were the others?

## LINE OF THE WEEK

Kolten Wong hit three home runs and drove in five runs to lead Milwaukee to a 5-1 win over Cincinnati on Thursday night. □

# Biden praises Braves' 'unstoppable, joyful run' to 2021 win



President Joe Biden holds up a jersey during an event celebrating the 2021 World Series champion Atlanta Braves, in the East Room of the White House, Monday, Sept. 26, 2022, in Washington. From left, Braves President of Baseball Operations Alex Anthopoulos, manager Brian Snitker, Biden, and Braves President and CEO Terry McGuirk.

Associated Press

By **AAMER MADHANI and COLLEEN LONG**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Joe Biden said Monday the Atlanta Braves will be "forever known as the

upset kings of October" for their improbable 2021 World Series win, as he welcomed the team to the White House for a victory celebration.

Biden called the Braves' drive an "unstoppable, joyful run." The team got its White House visit in with just over a week left before the 2022 regular season wraps up and the playoffs begin again. The Braves trail the New York Mets by 1.5 games in the National League East but have clinched a wildcard spot for the MLB playoffs that begin Oct. 7. Chief Executive Officer Terry McGuirk said he hoped they'd be back to the White House again soon.

In August 2021, the Braves were a mess, playing barely at .500. But then they started winning. And they kept it up, taking the World Series in six games over the Houston Astros.

Biden called their performance of "history's greatest turnarounds."

"This team has literally been part of American history for over 150 years," said Biden. "But none of it came easy ... people counting you out. Heck, I know something about being counted out." Players lined up on risers behind Biden, grinning and waving to the crowd, but the player most discussed was one who hasn't been on the team in nearly 50 years and who died last year: Hall of Famer Hank Aaron.

Hammerin' Hank was the home run king for 33 years, dethroning Babe Ruth with a shot to left field on April 8, 1974. He was one of the most famous players for Atlanta and in baseball history, a clear-eyed chronicler of the hardships thrown his way — from the poverty and segregation of his Alabama youth to the racist

threats he faced during his pursuit of one of America's most hallowed records. He died in January at 86.

"This is team is defined by the courage of Hank Aaron," Biden said.

McGuirk said Aaron, who held front office positions with the team and was one of Major League Baseball's few Black executives, was watching over them.

"He'd have been there every step of the way with us if he was here," McGuirk added.

The president often honors major league and some college sports champions with a White House ceremony, typically a nonpartisan affair in which the commander in chief pays tribute to the champs' prowess, poses for photos and comes away with a team jersey. □



# NFL ends Pro Bowl; skills competitions, flag game instead

By **ROB MAADDI**  
**AP Pro Football Writer**

The NFL is replacing the Pro Bowl with weeklong skills competitions and a flag football game, The Associated Press has learned.

The new event will replace the full-contact showcase started in 1951. It will be renamed "The Pro Bowl Games" and will feature AFC and NFC players showcasing their football and non-football skills in challenges over several days. The 2023 Games will be held in Las Vegas, and the flag football game at Allegiant Stadium is Sunday, Feb. 5.

Peyton Manning and his Omaha Productions company will help shape programming and promote the event's content throughout the week. Manning, a 14-time Pro Bowl pick during his Hall of Fame career, will provide his perspective and will also be a part of the coaching staff for flag game.

"The Pro Bowl is something that we've been looking at for a while, really continuing to evolve," NFL executive Peter O'Reilly told The Associated Press. "Coming out of last year's game, we really made the decision based on a lot of internal conversations, getting feedback from GMs and coaches, getting a lot of feedback from players. We think there's a real opportunity to do something wholly different here and move



AFC quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15), of the Kansas City Chiefs passes against the NFC during the first half of the Pro Bowl NFL football game, Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

away from the traditional tackle football game. We decided the goal is to celebrate 88 of the biggest stars in the NFL in a really positive, fun, yet competitive way.

"The feedback very directly from guys who had been in the Pro Bowl recently was to keep the construct of the week, make sure you're having that multi-day element. It was overwhelmingly positive both from players as well as from clubs."

The Pro Bowl debuted in January of 1951 in Los Angeles and stayed there

for 21 seasons before the game moved to different cities from 1972-80.

Hawaii hosted from 1980-2009, and the game has had several homes in the years since, including Miami, Phoenix, Orlando and Las Vegas.

Quality of play in the Pro Bowl has often been criticized. Players, understandably concerned about getting hurt, treat it as an exhibition more than competition. A flag football game could increase competition while avoiding potential injuries resulting from tackling, blocking and hit-

ting.

The NFL has a major interest in flag football. The league partnered with the International Federation of American Football to bring flag football to The World Games in July with an eye on the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.

"You tap into all the stuff that feels great about Pro Bowl week, the skills, the helmets off, the engagement and then culminate that, keeping the AFC-NFC construct, in something that's really important, which is flag football and that opportunity to have

the best athletes in the NFL out there playing this game that is so much about the future of our sport," said O'Reilly, the league's executive vice president, club business and league events. "It's been an evolution, but coming out of Las Vegas last year, we really focused on how do we reinvent and celebrate our all-stars even better."

The league plans to announce the new format on Monday.

"The Pro Bowl has always been a time to step back and celebrate the game of football with teammates, fans and family," Manning told the AP.

"I'm thankful I can continue to be part of the week as all of us at Omaha Productions work with the NFL to reimagine The Pro Bowl Games.

Making Sunday's game a flag football game is great to see. Youth football has been extremely important to me, and knowing NFL FLAG will help grow this sport, I hope boys and girls can see themselves playing the same game as the best players in the world."

Fan voting will still help determine the AFC and NFC team rosters.

Tom Brady has the most invitations to the Pro Bowl with 15.

Four players got 14 invites, including Manning. The East-West Shrine Bowl will be held at Allegiant Stadium on Thursday, Feb. 2. □

## Fury rules out fighting Joshua after deadline expires

**LONDON (AP)** — Tyson Fury has ruled out fighting fellow British heavyweight Anthony Joshua after his self-imposed deadline expired.

Fury set Joshua's camp an ultimatum on Friday night, insisting he would walk away from the long-anticipated fight if a deal could not be done by Monday. In a video posted on Instagram, the WBC champion said: "Well guys, it's official. D-day has come

and gone. It's gone past 5 o'clock, Monday. No contract has been signed.

"It's officially over for Joshua. He is now out in the cold with the wolfpack." Eddie Hearn, Joshua's promoter, had already said there was "no chance" of contracts being signed by Monday, while Joshua said on Sunday that the negotiations were down to his lawyers.

Joshua had verbally accepted Fury's offer of a

60-40 purse split in favor of Fury.

The unbeaten Fury's last fight was in April when he knocked out another British fighter, Dillian Whyte, in front of around 90,000 spectators at Wembley Stadium.

Fury's hopes of landing a fight with Oleksandr Usyk, who retained the WBA, WBO and IBF belts by beating Joshua in Saudi Arabia last month, were dashed when the Ukrainian said



Tyson Fury, of England, walks away after knocking out Deontay Wilder in the 11th round of a heavyweight championship boxing match on Oct. 9, 2021, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

he did not intend to fight again this year.

Fury then turned his sights on Joshua. □



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